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TWENTY YEARS HENCE

MARTIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

LAND & FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

TWENTY YEARS HENCE

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LAND & FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

The preparation of this report was financially aided through a Federal grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Urban Planning Assistance program authorized by Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

THIS REPORT PREPARED FOR THE COUNTY OF MARTIN
BY THE MARTIN COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

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February, 1968

Price - $1.00

FOREWORD

This publication contains the last three elements in Martin County's planning program. These elements are a Land and Facilities Development Plan, Public Improvements Program, and a Capital Improvements Budget. Three previously published studies, a Population Study, an Economic Potential Study, and a Land Potential Study of Martin County were used as factual and justifiable material for the three elements in this publication.

The planning program was made possible through a contract with the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Community Planning, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Division of Community Planning has the responsibility of administrating Federal Planning Funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Such funds were made available to Martin County in the form of a grant totaling two-thirds of the contract cost. The planning contract began on February 14, 1966 and ends with this publication.

To avoid repetition of facts, existing conditions, and other previously published material, reference will often be made to the three studies mentioned above. Consequently, a very thorough understanding of that material will make this publication more understandable and meaningful.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
"WE THE PEOPLE"	1
INTRODUCTION	5
REGIONAL SETTING	7
PART 1 - LAND AND FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN	
PLANNING JURISDICTION IN MARTIN COUNTY	9
Chapter I - LAND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS	
A. Public Land	11
1. Open Space Reserves	11
2. Wildlife Managment Areas	11
3. State Parks	12
B. Residential	13
1. Cluster Development	14
2. Strip Development	14
3. Low Rent Housing	14
C. Commercial	15
D. Industrial	16
1. Heavy Industry	16
2. Medium Industry	17
E. Forestry and Agricultural	17
F. Transportation	21
1. Highway Responsibilities	25
Chapter II - PUBLIC FACILITIES	
INTRODUCTION	27
A. Public Safety	28
1. Law Enforcement	28
2. Fire Protection	29
a. Standards	31
B. Health Services	32
C. Public Works	33

Page

D. County Real Estate 35

E. Social and Cultural 36

1. Recreation 36
2. Public Schools 37
3. Evaluation of Martin County's School System 40

a. Bear Grass High School 41
b. Church Street School 42
c. East End School 42
d. Edna Andrews School 43
e. E. J. Hayes School 44
f. Farm Life School 45
g. Hamilton School 46
h. Jamesville High School 46
i. Jamesville Township School . . . 48
j. North Everetts School 48
k. Oak City High School 49
l. Parmele School 50
m. Robersonville Elementary School 50
n. Robersonville High School . . . 51
o. Rodgers School 52
p. Salsbury School 52
q. West Martin School 53
r. Williamston High School 54

4. Vocational Education 56

Chapter III - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS 59

Part II - PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

INTRODUCTION 63

Chapter IV - ANALYSIS OF COUNTY FINANCES

A. Tax Structure 65

B. Revenues and Expenditures 66

C. Bonded Indebtedness 67

D. Evaluation 69

Page

Chapter V - SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND CAPITAL BUDGET

INTRODUCTION 73

A. General Obligation Bonds 73

B. Revenue Bonds 74

C. Benefit Assessment 75

D. Current Revenues 75

E. Capital Reserve Fund 75

F. Necessary vs Non-Necessary Expenses . 76

G. Project Priority Schedule 77

H. List of Capital Improvements 81

I. List of Public Improvements 85

Chapter VI - IMPLEMENTATION 89

MAPS

#1 - Regional Location Map 7

#2 - Land Development Plan 18

#3 - Agriculture and Forest Land 19

#4 - Land Development Plan - Transportation 20

CHARTS

#1 - Assessed Valuation of Martin County 70

#2 - Revenues, Expenditures and Accumulated Surplus 71

#3 - Bonded Indebtedness 72

TABLES

#1 - Projection of Assessed Valuation and Legal Debt Limit . 68

"WE THE PEOPLE"

"WE THE PEOPLE" ! ! !

What are we doing? Here we are, the people of Martin County - a nice place - but what are we doing for ourselves and our county? Well, let's see - first of all - what we want to do is simply make our people happy. We want them to enjoy life and live to a ripe old age in Martin County.

What does this take? First of all we have to remember that when we think of "WE", we are including people of all ages, races, and creeds. When we consider these facts, we are able to see our needs more realistically. Certainly we would like to think that we are providing for our own as well as anyone, anywhere. But, can we justify this kind of thinking? Do we really believe we are meeting our own needs?

WE HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH! We have waited until we are surrounded by better hospitals, our elementary and high school have become a disgrace to our county, there are better shopping facilities in adjoining counties. We are losing our young people - our transportation system is sub-standard - we have too many people living in poverty, and our general economy has prospered very little. These are only a few of our problems and many of us don't even realize that these are actually problems. But, we said the "WE" is of all ages - unborn and up. This is an underlying and not often realized problem. We all know that 40 years ago our society was not changing as rapidly as it is today. The society then was one in which son would follow in dad's footsteps and make his family comfortable, especially in a rural

area, such as ours. With very few exceptions, sons of today cannot do this, and it is no secret, we all know it. Are we who have a voice in matters of Martin County going to let these young people with no voice suffer when we are gone? Let us not remain silent! Surely our shortcomings in preparing them for this curel world may make them suffer some, but not many will suffer in Martin County. They will learn they can leave Martin County and suffer less. These young people who are not prepared are those who will require future tax dollars to be supported on welfare programs, poverty programs, in penal institutions, etc.

We still say we like things as they are. What then will the situation be in Martin County twenty years from now - 1988? It doesn't take a genius to find the answer. It will be a county of few people, needless to say. Property will be owned by non-county farmers, banks and commercial timber companies. Surely those among us who are fortunate enough to have present investments in this county do not want this to happen. One might take an opposite point of view and say a situation such as this might not be so bad. As mentioned in previous studies, these young people who are leaving will be tired of big city life in 20 years and probably will pay dearly for a place to hunt, fish and just relax from the asphalt syndrome.

But, how are we different from people in other places? They have nice schools, shopping centers, movie theaters, hospitals, highways, jobs and the rest of the "good life", WE WAITED, that is the difference. We are too complacent, too apathetic, too conservative! We won't even spend our own tax money, or even pay a

little more to insure the continued existence of Martin County. We stand back and gasp in horror at the incidents of complacency in large cities. Yet we are standing by unmoved watching a county die, our own county, us. We have the same sickness of the large city. We care for "ME" not "WE". Who are we to criticize?

Twice we voted against better schools. We chose instead to send our children to be educated in 49 year old "death traps". Woe be it if one is ever touched by fire. It may take just such a tragedy to wake us up! Also, some of we parents are going to have a sad awakening when we try to enroll our child in a college and discover he is not prepared to pass the entrance examinations. Even if he happens to pass these examinations, there can be further complications. This student may be required to take a nine month series of preparatory courses and not earn one credit toward his chosen degree. We the people thought we were saving money by holding down taxes. I'm sure the parents of this boy would have gladly paid a few dollars higher taxes in order to have had their child prepared for college. This is not an unusual occurrence. Even more critical, this additional expense could mean the difference between a child getting an education and not getting one.

We have several county organizations whose members display more foresight than we should expect, since they are representative of the people. One such county organization - that given our support could do much more toward helping us with our problems is the Martin County Economic Development Commission. The duties of this

organization to the county are many and varied. One that is of utmost importance to our future is the responsibility of finding new jobs for us by attracting new industry. What do "we the people" do to help, NOTHING. There is actually more hinderance than assistance from "WE". How many of us would even sell a piece of property to a prospective industry, and if we did consider selling, would we (thinking of the personal pocketbook and not the good of our county) possibly boost the price a little and thus put it our of reach of an industry?

Probably the most progressive move that has been made in the last 40 years is the reality of possibly having an airport in Martin County in the not too distant future. This was no mere accident. An extreme amount of effort was put forth by the Director of Economic Development, the county commissioners, and several Town Boards in the county, plus a few private citizens.

This type of coordinated effort is what we need to gain the necessary things to move Martin County forward. Without more of this type effort we can sit back and watch our county deteriorate.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The preceding article entitled "WE THE PEOPLE" is an offensive move designed to generate interest in this publication. Unfortunately the Martin County Planning Board's three previous publications brought very little comment, pro or con. Hopefully this one will generate more interest. The article also was intended to emphasize three important characteristics of Martin County's problems. They are:

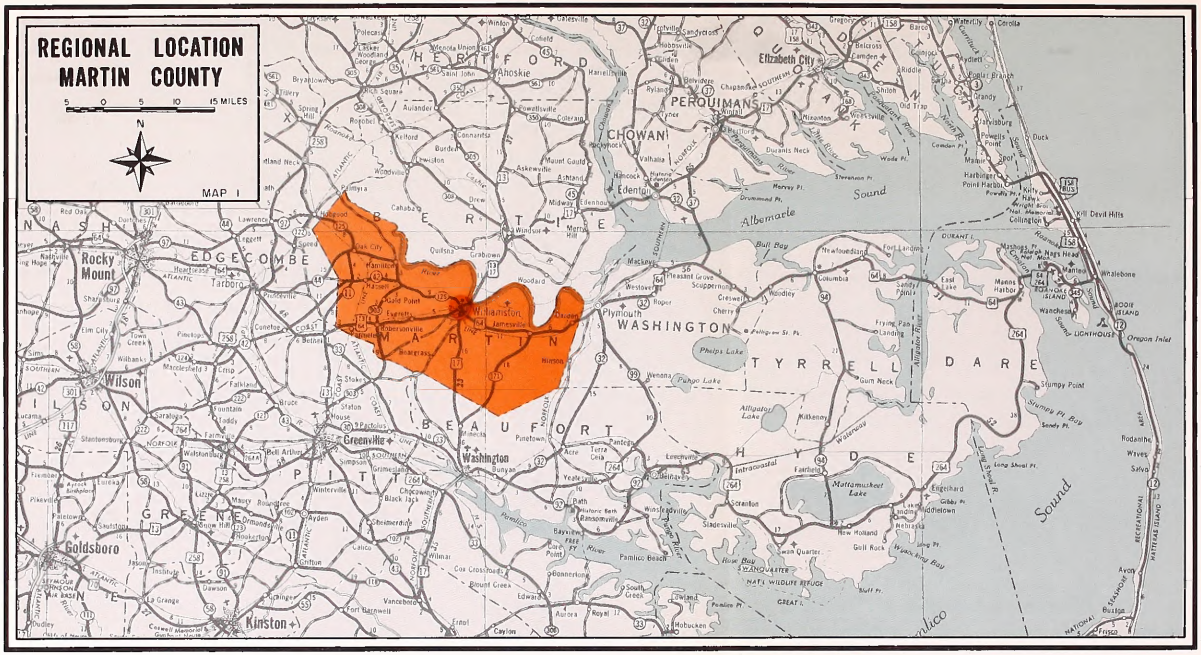
1. The County's problem is unique in that it is not the normal planning problem of sprawling dev-lopment. but that of the need to generate some development.
2. That the reason for the problem lies squarely in the hands of the people.
3. That the reason for the action of the people on such things as school bond issues is not that the county is in financial difficulty.

Consequently, this presents a very difficult problem for the Martin County Planning Board. Their duties, stated by law are: to make careful studies of the resources, possibilities and needs of the county, particularly with respect to the conditions which may be injurious to the public welfare or otherwise injurious, and to make plans for the development of the county. Certainly the duties can be, have been, and should be interpreted as a defensive responsibility in such a situation in which development is occuring at such a rapid and unorganized manner, that it must be controlled. So, herein lies the

uniqueness, we have the problem of knowing from future studies that Martin County has many possibilities for development, however, she is losing her greatest resource: her people. This is not to say that some attention should not be given to Land Development and Public Services, but the major problem is either to stem the out-flow of her citizens or import a greater number. The real unfortunate aspect of this loss of citizens is that it is occuring among today's labor force and backbone of the economy. They are the potential leaders of the future.

Due to the facts presented in previous studies and this writer's experience, it would be dishonest and an act of ambiguity to approach the problem in any other manner, than realistically. Therefore, the Land Development Plan in the following chapter cannot be justified by National, State, or any other standards of development or land use. It is intended, however, to be a preliminary plan to guide county officials on major and optimum uses of each catagory presented. In essence it is a plan that would be realistic if the county was actually growing.

The transportation sector, however, is realistic and meaningful. Justification for the plan is also presented.


REGIONAL LOCATION
MARTIN COUNTY
5 0 5 10 15 MILES
N
MAP I
Rocky Mount
Wilson
Goldsboro
Kinston
Greenville
Washington
Williamston
Elizabeth City
Edenton
Plymouth
Windsor
Tarboro
Roanoke Rapids
Weldon
Manteo
Albemarle Sound
Pamlico Sound
Roanoke River
Cashie River
Chowan River
Scuppernong River
Alligator River
Pungo Lake
Phelps Lake
Mattamuskeet Lake
Lake Phelps
Lake Scuppernong
Lake Gaston
Kerr Lake
Roanoke Island
Oregon Inlet
Hatteras Island
Nags Head
Kill Devil Hills
Colington
Harbinger
Point Harbor
Kitty Hawk
Duck
Corolla
Waterlily
Belcross
Camden
Shiloh
Old Trap
Sawyers Creek
Grandy
Jarvisburg
Powells Point
Moyock
Sandy Ridge
Gates
Cofield
Winton
Valdese
Tarboro
Rocky Mount
Nashville
Spring Hope
Bryan Crossroads
Pleasant Hill
Bethel
Aulander
Roxobel
Kelford
Lewiston
Woodville
Cofield
Colerain
Powellsville
Merry Hill
Windsor
Ashland
Mount Gould
Askewville
Hobgood
Pinetown
Bath
Belhaven
Aurora
Washington
Greenville
Ayden
Grifton
Kinston
Goldsboro
Wilson
Tarboro
Williamston
Plymouth
Edenton
Elizabeth City
Manteo
Roanoke Rapids
Weldon
Windsor
Ahoskie
Murfreesboro
Gatesville
Hertford
Winton

PART 1

LAND & FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PLANNING JURISDICTION IN MARTIN COUNTY

On November 27, 1967 the Town of Robersonville passed a resolution requesting Federal Planning Funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This grant will be used to partially finance a six element planning program for Robersonville. The Robersonville Planning Board thus became the third planning board in Martin County. The first planning board is the Martin County Planning Board and the other is the Town of Williamston Planning Board. Perhaps we should explain the legal jurisdiction involved with these three planning boards. The North Carolina Legislature has given, to any town or city which has an active planning program, legal right to carry its planning program one mile outside of its city limits. This authority is what is termed as extra-territorial jurisdiction. This jurisdiction applies mainly to the physical aspect of planning; meaning such things as highways, drainage, utilities, zoning, and sub-division regulations. Consequently, the Martin County Planning Board's authority over such elements is outside this one-mile radius. Martin County Planning Board has cooperated and agreed with the Williamston Planning Board on matters that were controversial.

This authority, however, does not pertain to social, cultural, economic, and other inanimate type studies and future plans. Simply what this means is that when the Martin County Planning Board considers such things as population, and economics of the county the two towns are included.

This extraterritorial jurisdiction affects this publication in several ways as can be seen on the Land Development Plan. We have excluded the two towns and their extraterritorial area from the plan. The two towns, however, cannot be ignored when planning for public facilities, which include fire protection, law enforcement, health service, and cultural elements. There is really no clear cut line between jurisdiction unless it should be the physical element.

CHAPTER 1

LAND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

CHAPTER 1 LAND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

A. PUBLIC LAND

Public Land in this report refers generally to large tracts of land that should be set aside for use by the general public.

1. OPEN SPACE RESERVES

The title Open Space Reserves is a little misleading. In essence it means those areas along streams, swamps, and wetlands that are not conducive to agriculture or urban development. Even though some very selective timber cutting could be permitted, they should be preserved as wildlife breeding grounds and as areas for recreation. Very little alteration should be allowed to take place, however, some locations are very conducive to pond or lake construction. With a little ingenuity this use could further enhance their value.

The random pattern these areas make is quite unusual. A similar pattern of wild areas and parks in one of our heavily populated areas would be almost unbelievable....proof as to why these areas should be preserved for all times.

2. WILDLIFE MANAGMENT AREAS

Proposed Wildlife Managment Areas are shown on the Land Development Plan, and are basically along the Roanoke River. The importance of the preservation of these areas and their economic value to Martin County have been fully explained and discussed on pages 51-56 of the Martin County Land Potential Study.

3. STATE PARKS

The North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, Division of State Parks, publishes a map of North Carolina on which graduated radii are drawn from every park in the state. The area around the town of Hamilton, in Martin County, has a unique position on this map. It is as far from a State Park as any place in North Carolina. It just so happens that Martin County's best preserved historical landmark is located just east of Hamilton.

This landmark is an old Civil War earth dugged fort, known as Fort Branch, designed to protect the river from Union boats. The fort stretches approximately 500 feet along the river bank and 100 feet or so above river water level. An obscure map of its original design indicates 13 pieces of heavy artillery mounted on the star shape earth works--8 guns facing landward, 2 directed up, and 3 down the river. Its vertical configuration is open on the river exposure with a high mound and a ditch encompassing the other three sides.

State Park officials have spoken to this author about a site for a park in the vicinity. They were told about Fort Branch and seemed very interested. The site is located on the Land Development Plan Map, and proper officials should examine the feasibility of a State Park at the site. One cannot estimate the monetary value of such a park to Martin County, but certainly it would be an interesting tourist attraction.

B. RESIDENTIAL

There has been very little residential development in Martin County in the past thirty years. In 1966 approximately 42% of Martin County's population resided within the corporate limits of the ten towns in the county. The area covered by these ten towns totaled only about 1.6% of the total land area in the county. Naturally, as pointed out in previous studies, there has been migration from rural to urban areas. This is quite evident by the frequency of vacant homes in the rural area. There are only a few small areas of concentrated residential development outside the corporate limits.

Due to past and predicted loss of population no significant residential development can be expected. There are two minor trends, however, that have occurred in the past four or five years. Mobile Home Units have sprung up all over the county. Unfortunately, siting of these units has been helter-skelter, with no consideration given to esthetics. The county should have some control over Mobile Homes; after all, they are a living unit as much so as the constructed home. This is not in criticism of the units because they are a vital factor in today's residential requirements.

The other trend is that most of the homes that have recently been constructed in rural areas are of much better quality than were constructed in the past. Possibly the reason for this is that many farmers are part-time farmers and have a full-time job elsewhere

but still reside on the farm with a higher income. Even though there will be very little residential construction, residential areas have been designated on the Land Development Plan.

Areas classified as residential must meet the following criteria:

a. Soil must have characteristics as those soils in Group A, on page 14 in the Land Potential Study of Martin County.

b. Must have access to major highways.

c. Must be located away from obnoxious industrial areas.

d. Must not classify as industrial land.

e. Must be free of present development.

1. CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT

By cluster development we simply mean areas that will be developed in a sub-division manner, releasing undeveloped land by opening new roads for residential construction.

2. STRIP DEVELOPMENT

Strip residential development simply means areas suitable for construction along present highways with no new highways being constructed.

3. LOW RENT HOUSING

The towns of Robersonville and Williamston are presently involved in preparing applications to the Federal Government for low rent federal housing. Certainly, there exists a

great need for this type housing in these two towns in the county as well as other areas in the county. Rather than having several housing authorities within the county, it seems more practical to have a county-wide housing authority. Such an authority could be made up of members from all ten towns and could set up and justify housing priority needs throughout the county. Such an organization could function more efficiently due to the larger scope and number of persons involved, than can the authorities in the small towns.

C. COMMERCIAL

The number of commercial establishments in Martin County has decreased over the past few years. This decrease is evident as one travels through the county. The proverbial country store can no longer survive as its neighborhood clients have left their farms because of farm mechanization and easier means of travel. Simply this means the local rural trading center is diminishing because of out-migration of farm workers, plus the convenience and ease of travel to larger shopping centers with lower cost of merchandise.

Any increase in commercial establishments will certainly locate in or near the areas which are experiencing an increase in population; namely the town of Williamston and Robersonville.

D. INDUSTRIAL

Even though the manufacturing industry will probably exceed agriculture in both employment and payroll in 1968, there have been very few additions to the number of industrial firms in Martin County. In fact, since 1963 there has been only two additional firms. Capital expansion of existing firms, and shorter working hours for employees have accounted for the increase in employees and payroll. As mentioned before, industrial expansion in Martin County is a very difficult thing to accomplish. Until some of the objectives and goals in the county's economical potential study are achieved this difficulty will probably increase, even though Martin County has a very capable and active Economic Development Commission. Martin County has many potentially desirable industrial sites, however, due to many reasons only a small portion of these sites are available to prospective industries. The Land Development Plan indicates potential sites for heavy and medium industries.

1. HEAVY INDUSTRY

All sites for heavy industry shown on the Land Development Plan meet at least five of the following six criteria:

a. Soil conforms to group A in figure 2, page 17, in the Land Potential Study of Martin County.

b. Railroad frontage

c. Major highway frontage

d. Large acreage under one ownership

e. Compatibility with nearby land uses

f. Land presently undeveloped

2. MEDIUM INDUSTRY

a. Soil conforms to group A in figure 2, page 17, in the Land Potential Study of Martin County

b. Paved secondary road frontage

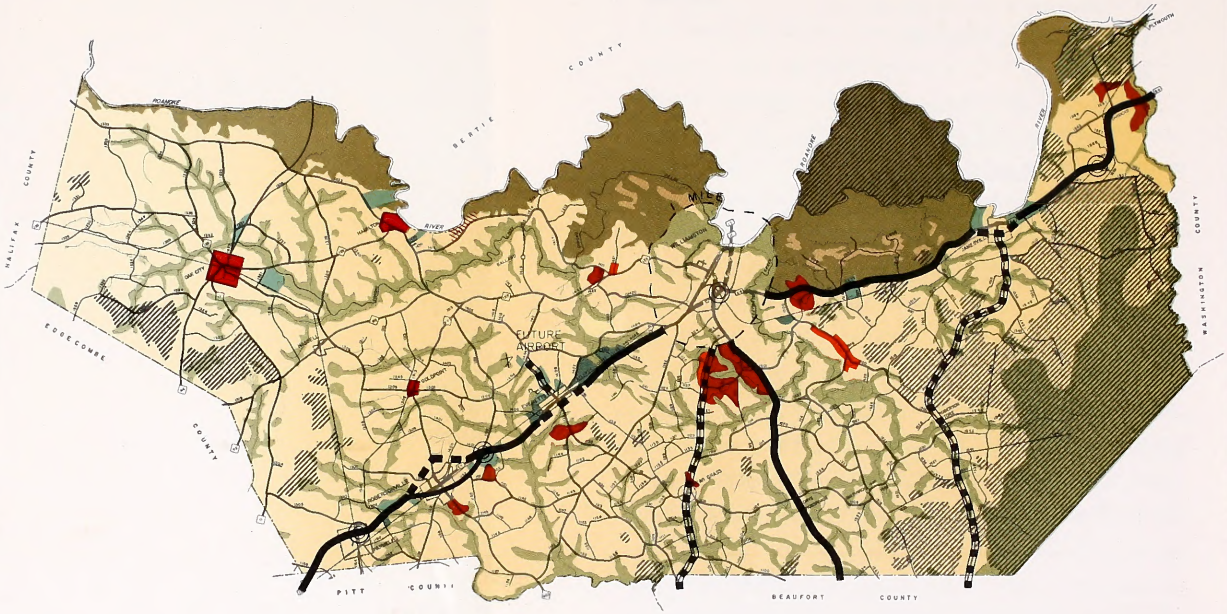
c. Large acreage under one ownership

d. Compatibility with nearby land uses

e. Land presently undeveloped

E. FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURAL

Needless to say, removal of Martin County's agricultural and forest products would be a disaster to the economy of the county. The two industries combined represent 89% of the total land area of Martin County--agricultural 94,913 acres, forest 200,900 acres. This portion of the land used in the county has existed for many years but may possibly change in a very few years. The reasons being, the inability for small farmers to continue operation, the rising cost of land, subsequently, leaving property purchasing power to large corporations or banks. Consequently, what is happening, and what will continue to happen, is the practice of large commercial timber companies buying the farm land and converting it into tree farms. Insofar as a Land Development Plan is concerned, this property must be disregarded since its ownership is that of a long term investment and will probably stay in its present ownership at least for the foreseeable future.

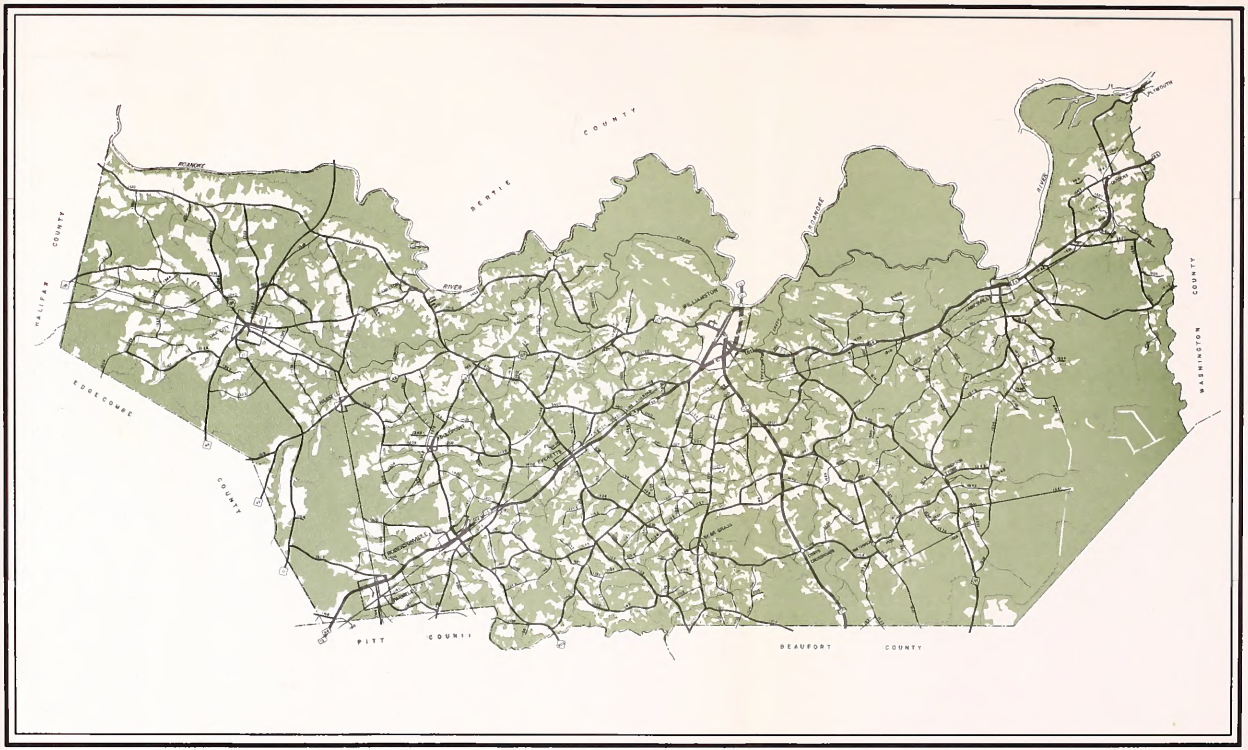


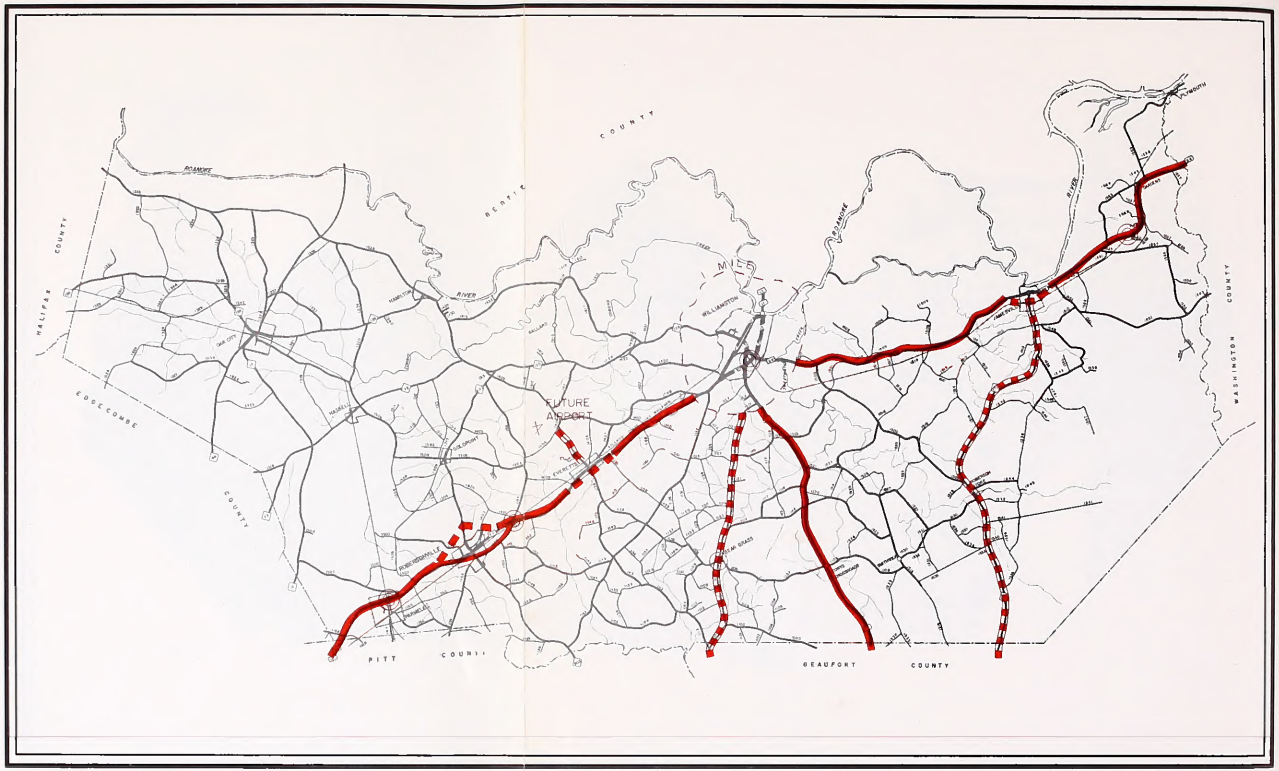
MARTIN COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN-1968

- FARMLAND (INCLUDES WOODLANDS)
- OPEN SPACE RESERVES
- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS
- STATE PARKS
- COMMERCIAL FOREST HOLDINGS
- STRIP RESIDENTIAL
- CLUSTER RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- MEDIUM INDUSTRIAL
- HEAVY INDUSTRIAL
- HIGHWAY - WIDEN TO 4 LANES
- HIGHWAY - ALTERNATE REROUTE
- HIGHWAY - IMPROVE AND WIDEN
- HIGHWAY - REROUTE
- RAILROAD OVERPASS

MAP 2


HALIFAX COUNTY
BERTIE COUNTY
EDGECOMBE COUNTY
PITT COUNTY
BEAUFORT COUNTY
WASHINGTON COUNTY
ROANOKE
RIVER
WILLIAMSTON
JAMESVILLE
WEST BEACH
PLYMOUTH
ROBERSONVILLE
ROPER
CONCRETE
ROUTE
TRACK
CREEK
BRANCH
SWAMP
POCOSIN
LAKE
FIRE
TOWER
CHURCH
SCHOOL
HOUSE
MILL
BRIDGE
FERRY
CEMETERY
PLANTATION
FARM
HOMES
ACADEMY
HOSPITAL
CAMP
PARK
GOLF
COURSE
AIRPORT
FIELD
RESERVOIR
DAM
SPRINGS
WELL
GAP
MOUNTAIN
HILL
RIDGE
VALLEY
BAY
POINT
ISLAND
SHOAL
BEACH
SAND
DUNE
MARSH
SWAMP
BOG
FALLS
RAPIDS
CANAL
LOCK
DITCH
GULLY
ROCK
CLIFF
CAVE
MINE
QUARRY
PIT
DOCK
WHARF
PIER
BOAT
RAMP
MARINA
CAMPGROUND
RV
TRAILER
PARK
RECREATION
AREA
PICNIC
AREA
BEACH
BOAT
LAUNCH
FISH
HATCHERY
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
STATE
FOREST
NATIONAL
FOREST
GAME
LANDS
PRESERVE
NATURE
CONSERVANCY
TRAIL
PATH
WALK
BRIDGE
TUNNEL
CULVERT
FORD
CROSSING
INTERSECTION
JUNCTION
DIVERSION
DIKE
LEVEE
DAM
SPILLWAY
WEIR
GATE
FENCE
WALL
BARRIER
BUOY
BEACON
LIGHTHOUSE
LIGHT
SIGN
MARKER
MONUMENT
STATUE
FOUNTAIN
WELL
SPRING
HOT
SPRING
GEYSER
FUMAROLE
SOLFATARA
MUD
POT
TAR
PIT
OIL
WELL
GAS
WELL
MINE
SHAFT
ADIT
TUNNEL
CAVE
SINK
HOLE
DOLINE
KARST
CANYON
GORGE
RAVINE
DELTA
FAN
ALLUVIAL
PLAIN
FLOODPLAIN
TERRACE
BENCH
SHELF
SLOPE
CLIFF
ROCK
BOULDER
SAND
DUNE
BEACH
SAND
BAR
SPIT
HOOK
CUSPATE
FORELAND
TOMBOLO
LAGOON
BAY
GULF
SOUND
STRAIT
CHANNEL
INLET
FJORD
SEA
OCEAN
LAKE
POND
RESERVOIR



MARTIN COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

- HIGHWAY - WIDEN TO 4 LANES
- HIGHWAY - ALTERNATE REROUTE
- HIGHWAY - IMPROVE AND WIDEN
- HIGHWAY - REROUTE
- RAILROAD OVERPASS

MAP 4

F. TRANSPORTATION

History has proven that transportation and communications are the biggest factors influencing urban development. Certainly, in planning, these factors are the most important elements. As stated before, Martin County was one of the first areas to be settled in Eastern North Carolina, the reason being transportation was easy from the ocean up the Roanoke River. Means of transportation today are vastly different and have consistently shifted development away from Martin County.

Probably the greatest boost to Martin County's economy would be improvement of its transportation links with large trade centers. Unfortunately, the national system of interstate highways has bypassed Martin County by 50 miles. Commercial airlines facilities are also approximately 50 miles away. Ironically, two U.S. highways transverse the county, intersecting outside the town of Williamston. These two highways being a major Northsouth and Eastwest highway theoretically puts Martin County in a strategic location. Years ago this was true, but due to improvement of other highways and the construction of new highways, these two previously major U. S. routes have become somewhat secondary. There are several organizations supporting better highways for Martin County and eastern North Carolina. It will take a greater effort by Martin County citizens through the cooperation of other counties to make any improvement in the highway system.

Due to the North Carolina Highway System it is understood that very little money will be available in the next few years for the paving of unpaved highways. Without mentioning the legalities involved, certain unpaved secondary roads in Martin County could possibly be closed and taken off the State Highway System. Funds then could be deferred to more important areas. To some this may seem fantastic; however, as we mentioned before, the population in the area continues to decline, leaving many homes vacant. Eventually, many short unpaved connector roads will be without supporting residences. In most cases these roads are not necessary to the State Highway System.

Realistically, however, after discussing this possibility with state highway officials, the possibility of such action seems only remotely possible. The reason being that in any case in which a public right-of-way is abandoned, all abutting property owners must agree to such action. Considering the fact that any property owner desires ingress and egress to his property, the idea becomes unrealistic. Probably the only possibility of this action in Martin County is in the southeastern portion of the county where commercial timber companies own large tracts of land. Some of these companies desire to have their land isolated from public access due to such reasons as forest fires, etc. This possibility should be investigated by county officials.

To be consistent with the recommendations in the Economic Potential Study of Martin County, the county does not need any new highways, with exception of probably subdivision development. Much improvement, however, is needed on existing roads and the Land Development Plan indicates the most urgent of these needs. At present the State Highway Department has approved the widening of U. S. 17 to four lanes from Windsor to connect with the four-lane bypass in Williamston. The two-lane revolving bridge over the Roanoke River at the Bertie-Martin County line will remain for the present time. Future plans are to construct a four-lane arch bridge over the river. Also scheduled is the four-lane widening of U. S. 17 from the Williamston bypass to a point between State Highway 15 and 21 and State Road No. 1116 about four miles south of Williamston. County officials and other organizations should press for the continued widening and realignment of U. S. Route 17 to Washington, North Carolina. By the same token, U. S. Route 64 should be realigned and widened to four lanes, not only in Martin County but from the Tarboro bypass to the Outer Banks. This highway is traveled very heavily, especially in the summer months, since this is the most direct route from Raleigh to the Outer Banks. Traffic volume on U. S. 64 is certain to increase rapidly with North Carolians working less hours and making more money. This situation, along with congestive urbans areas, will force persons to areas that can be found on the coast, further increasing U. S. Route 64 traffic.

The Land Development Plan proposes bypasses around Robersonville, Everetts, and Jamesville. The future necessity for these bypasses are caused by the commonplace problems generated by increased traffic. This results in dangerous and congestive traffic on narrow rights-of-way where widening of existing highways is not feasible.

The four railroad overpasses shown on the map will certainly be a safety necessity along with the other improvements mentioned above. This will be further necessitated when the Weyerhaeuser Company in Plymouth completes their $25 million expansion program, consequently increasing highway rail traffic. There are three routes shown on the map to be widened and improved. Certainly the road from Everetts to the new county airport justifies updating.

State Road No. 1001, which runs through Bear Grass, supports much local traffic and is a favorite route from Williamston to Greenville, North Carolina. It contains many unnecessary sharp turns and the pavement is dangerously narrow. State Highway No. 171, which connects Jamesville and Plymouth with U. S. 17, is extremely heavily traveled by fully loaded logging trucks destined mainly for the Weyerhaeuser plant. State highway crews are continuously repairing areas which have been destroyed due to the weight of these logging trucks.

Needless to say, in addition to what is proposed on the Land Development Plan, it would be desirable to pave all unpaved roads; however, as mentioned before, state highway funds for paving of unpaved roads will be practically nil in the next few years without a state tax increase or a state bond issue.

1. HIGHWAY RESPONSIBILITIES

It seems wise to follow the preceding section concerning highway recommendations in Martin County with a brief discussion of current highway responsibilities in North Carolina. Under the present North Carolina Highway System, distribution of Federal and State highway funds is invested mainly in the North Carolina State Highway Commission. This unfortunately takes the basic long range planning out of the hands of the county officials. Full realization of this lack of local authority is necessary when making long range highway plans from the local level. This does not mean, however, that county officials need feel they are without voice in local highway needs. Therefore, local officials, once convinced of the magnitude of their needs should press for such needs. Meaning that multi-county organizations should be organized and definite responsibilities should be designated to each organization. The size and scope of these organizations should be dependent upon the magnitude of responsibility. For example, if an organization were formed to exert needed pressure for widening of a highway that involved three counties, representatives from those three counties involved must necessarily be included in order to insure a total and coordinated effort.

CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter evaluates and makes recommendations for all public facilities which are county government responsibility. Where applicable, the present facilities are evaluated and compared to National and/or State standards. After all, the measure of return on the citizenry's tax dollar can be measured by the level of public service rendered. Periodic assessment by county officials is necessary to insure updating of those services.

A. PUBLIC SAFETY

1. LAW ENFORCEMENT

The existing law enforcement situation is presented and discussed on page 27 in the Land Potential Study of Martin County. In brief the shortcomings of the overall law enforcement picture is the lack of a police officer in Jamesville and an understaffed sheriff's department. As stated in the Land Potential Study, the sheriff and his two deputys are presently responsible for 8,000 people each rather than a nationally accepted standard of 5,000 per deputy. This situation will become much worse when the new court reform system, inacted by the 1967 General Assembly of North Carolina, becomes effective in 1969. Briefly, what will cause this is that there are no provisions in the new court system for monetary compensation to constable officers. Consequently, this position will eventually disappear, transferring the burden of their working load on the sheriff's department. In Martin County constables serve approximately 400 papers per month. To handle this additional responsibility will require one additional sheriff's deputy. In addition, under the new system more time will be spent in the courtroom by the sheriff and his deputys. Consequently, since the department is now understaffed plus the addition of the above responsibilities, it seems that three additional full-time deputys will eventually be required. Also, two additional cars will be required to serve these extra three men. Some may

not feel that the department is understaffed but this author has full knowledge of the hours spent on the job by the sheriff and his two full-time and two part-time deputys. The problem arises especially when either the sheriff or one of his deputys, sometimes both, are required to leave the county either to deliver or bring back prisoners. This leaves the department shorthanded, sometimes for days at a time. These needs may sound extravagant, but it is the duty of the county officials to adequately protect the citizens of Martin County.

2. FIRE PROTECTION

An effective fire fighting organization is an important asset for any county. Through good fire protection county and local officials not only make human life and property safer but make possible the lower cost of doing business. By this we mean citizens save money in fire insurance rates. On page 25 and 26 of the Martin County Land Potential Study, the seven fire fighting units in the county are shown with their effective one-mile radius. Six of these units are manned entirely by volunteer firemen. Williamston is the only department that has any full-time paid firemen.

The adequacy of the seven fire departments throughout the county is shown by examining the grade assignments made by the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau. These rates are based on a scale of one to ten. The higher the rating the lower

the level of protection; consequently, the higher the cost of fire insurance. The respective ratings are shown in the graph on page 25 of the Martin County Land Potential Study. Even though the seven stations are spaced fairly equal distance apart throughout the county, the majority of the county, including three incorporated towns, is left without adequate protection. The most evident and the greatest need for additional fire protection is in the town of Everetts. Secondly, the area of Dardens should have closer protection. The citizens of these two communities should strive to organize volunteer fire departments.

One real problem exists with fire protection in the county. That is the lack of radio communications between the seven stations. The problem arises when the volunteer staff of two stations answer the same call in an area outside their effective districts. The result is that two home districts are left unprotected. This situation could be solved with a county-wide alarm system and radio network with all calls being received and dispatched from a central control center.

The feasibility of such a network has already been proven but was never followed up. An estimated cost of 12 to 15 thousand dollars seems a small amount for such added protection for Martin County residents. Proper officials should immediately pursue this project.

a. STANDARDS

There are seven fire districts in Martin County. Each is organized as a fire district under the laws of the State of North Carolina. The boundary of each department is such that travel distance will not exceed three miles to any point within the district, except under certain conditions when four-mile extensions are permitted.

The North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau has outlined a list of equipment standards that should be in the inventories of small fire departments operating without the benefit of a public water system. Fundamental among these are the following:

a. At least one motorized fire truck equipped with a water tank of 300 to 500 gallons capacity, and a pump with a capacity of at least 60 gallons per minute;
b. Two booster reels, each with 150 feet of 1-inch rubber booster hose, connected to pumps with combination fog and straight stream nozzles (shut-off type) attached to each;
c. One 24-foot extension ladder, one 12-foot ladder, a 10-foot pike pool, and axe, a claw tool and a crowbar;

d. Two electric fire lanterns, 100 feet of 5/8 inch Manila rope and two five gallon hand pump tanks of the knapsack type; and

e. One 2½ gallon extinguisher suitable for oil fires and two small extinguishers suitable for electrical fires*.

Three stations in Martin County operate without benefit of public water systems. These are Bear Grass, Griffin Township, and Jamesville. Their inventory includes the preceding list of requirements. The two areas that were advised to organize voluntary fire departments will also not have benefit of a public water system and should strive to equip their stations with these standards as well.

B. HEALTH SERVICES

It is common knowledge that the people of Martin County do not have the proper medical facilities available to them. The Health and Welfare Departments seem to be quite efficient in providing adequate services. The two hospitals and the county home leave much to be desired.

After much consultation with numbers of Martin County's Hospital Commissioners, it has been decided that to include an estimate of

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*General Provisions Pertaining to Public Fire Defenses for Communities with Limited Water Supplies, "North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau.

the needs for health services in this report would be ambiguous. The reason being that the Hospital Commission recently had an out-of-state team of experts survey the entire scope of Martin County health facilities. Since the Hospital Commission has spent money to hire experts to conduct this survey, it certainly will be more thorough than one that can be conducted under this planning program. It was the consensus of opinion of the Hospital Commission members that were contacted, that we leave the recommendations for health services up to this survey.

The present status of the report is that it has been completed and is in the hands of the Hospital Commission for study. Its contents are being kept closely guarded for the present. The commission feels that the proper way to release the contents of this report and to insure its thorough understanding and support is to release it at a public meeting with all county and town officials present. It is reported that this meeting will take place some time in January, 1968.

The possibility that the report does recommend a new hospital is taken into consideration and suggested funding is included in the Capital Improvements Budget.

C. PUBLIC WORKS

By public works we mean the utilities that are furnished and owned by public municipalities in Martin County. This is restricted to sewer and water systems. The extent of these systems is shown

on page 35 in the Land Potential Study. As can be seen on the chart, the responsibility for the water supply and sewerage disposal system in Martin County is vested solely in the town's. Each town implicitly assumed this function when it incorporated as a separate and distinct political entity. Only about 24% of Martin County residences are served by public sewer facilities and 38% are served by a public water supply.

Even though the county does not participate in any sewer or water system, the county was recently granted $8,000 from the Farmers Home Administration, U.S.D.A., to conduct a comprehensive sewer and water study of nine towns and one settlement in Martin County. This study, when completed, will qualify each of the ten areas for a 40-year federal loan or grant if construction costs are above normal. Hopefully, this study will lead the way to better water and sewer services to more of Martin County's citizens.

Work on the study is scheduled to begin in March or April of 1968, and should be completed one year later. Irrespective of the results of the study, it is common knowledge that industries seeking potential sites for new plants now days expect certain facilities from the local citizens and municipalities. Consequently, any prospective industry seeking location in Martin County should be evaluated and every effort should be made to furnish amenities designed toward meeting the industry's needs. By this we mean the county should furnish certain facilities, basically water, in its

effort to attract new industry. The County Commissioners have adopted a resolution of good faith to this intent.

The preceding recommendations should pertain to all incidences whether existing facilities are available or not.

D. COUNTY REAL ESTATE

Periodically all governmental units should take stock of the adequacy and condition of the different types of public buildings and ground which serves its people. School facilities will be deleted under this title and dealt with under Social and Cultural Facilities.

1. County Courthouse

Martin County's present courthouse was erected in 1885, making it 82 years old. The building has become outdated and was not designed functionally to meet requirements placed upon it by modern day governmental requirements.

Even though the county completed a new county office building across the street from the courthouse, the county still is lacking in office space for its administrative offices; consequently, the county has had to rent numerous offices to supply space for its employees. In addition, the jail in the courthouse has become almost obsolete and has had to have some renovations.

The county should plan in the near future to construct a new county courthouse on the lot adjacent to the present courthouse. The county already owns the land. This new courthouse should be very carefully designed to meet future office space demands and should be built with adequate expansion possibilities. All county offices should be located within the new building, since centralization promotes efficiency.

E. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

1. Recreation

Martin County gravely lacks public recreational facilities. There is plenty of recreation for those who prefer certain pastimes. Certainly, there is plenty of fishing and hunting for those who like the outdoors. There are two country clubs for those who are able and allowed to become members. One camping area allows a certain amount of local usage. There are other forms of entertainment, but these are usually limited to certain groups. Martin County needs some public park type recreational facility for active and passive recreation. If the State Park mentioned previously in this publication were to materialize, it would be a big step in supplying some certain types of recreation. However, the county should strive toward a county recreational complex. This type of capital

improvement, however, will be very very difficult for the county to accomplish with the present social problems, especially since money spent in this manner would have to be approved by the vote of the people. This is an unfortunate but real situation which has already resulted in the closing of the only public swimming pool in the county. Many years will go by before the situation improves to any great degree.

2. Public Schools

Martin County voters recently defeated a school bond issue for the second time. Reaction to the outcome at this time still causes tempers to flare. The reasons for its defeat are numerous, but the real issue is that Martin County's most pressing public facility needs have had a tremendous setback as mentioned in the article "We The People". Martin County's school facilities are in a state of shambles. These facilities are one major reason why it is very difficult to get top rate teachers in Martin County and also a reason why Martin County has the highest dropout rate of any county in the state. It would be unwise to dwell on the subject of the school bond issue at this time, because it is a source of great controversy among Martin County citizens. Briefly, we must say that the problem of inadequate school facilities still exists and in some way must be improved.

State school officials have recommended that two high schools

be constructed in the county--one near Williamston and one near the Gold Point area. The Martin County School Board recommended in the school bond issue that one double-unit complex be built near Everetts. It seems more logical to locate a larger unit just outside the town of Williamston. Approximately one-half million dollars would be saved by taking advantage of the town of Williamston's sewer and water system. Furthermore, Williamston Township represents 34.4% of the total population of Martin County and lies almost dead center on an east-west axis. Also, the 1980 population projection shows an extension of continuing loss of population in all townships, except Williamston. Consequently, in 1980 forty-five percent of Martin County residents will reside in Williamston. Furthermore, the savings in student transportation costs are obvious.

Certainly there will be opposition to this school location plan, as there will be to any other plan, due to factions among Martin County communities.

Educational requirements that are not being met in the present high school system would be provided for a larger unit such as this.

The question has arisen concerning the hardship some children may undergo due to riding a school bus a long distance each day. Realistically, this question is trivial, when we consider how little the sacrifice of a few hours each week might

mean as compared to the benefits of a good education. As a matter of fact, there will be very few children that will have to ride a school bus as much as 15 miles one way.

3. Evaluation of Martin County's School System

To justify what has been said previously in this report, the actual conditions of Martin County's school system includes not only the physical aspects but also educational location, and service system. The following pages evaluate each of Martin County's 18 individual school facilities. It is a summary of strengths and weaknesses of each facility to offer factual basis for the Public Improvements Program and Capital Improvements Budget presented later in this publication. The information presented is a correlation of material from three sources.*

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*(1) on-site inspection of facilities, (2) material contained in a school survey of Martin County schools by the Division of School Planning, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, (3) information supplied by the Martin County School Board and the office of Martin County School Superintendent.

a. BEAR GRASS HIGH SCHOOL

Although the physical facilities are structurally sound, they are functionally obsolete. Four separate structures: an elementary building and auditorium, constructed in 1925; a shop building constructed in 1935; a high school and cafeteria, built in 1951; a gymnasium, constructed in 1954, comprise a sprawling complex that is not conducive to the most efficient operation of an educational program. The school has on site water and sewage facilities.

The elementary school has one teacher each in grades 1 - 8 and the traditional self-contained organization in grades 1 - 6, without the services of special teachers. At the seventh and eighth grade levels, instruction is organized in large blocks of time. The high school curriculum is limited because of the facilities and because of a student body that numbers about 100. The faculty is hard-pressed to offer even basic courses and students are offered no opportunity for individualized programs of study or for pursuing vocational interests. Expanding course offerings to meet a recognized need would involve the limited teaching staff in excessive preparations and in teaching outside of their fields of certification.

Of a total faculty of 15, 11 hold "A" certificates; 4 hold "G" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from no previous professional practice to that of more than 20 years. Guidance and counseling services are provided from County Administration.

b. CHURCH STREET SCHOOL

The physical plant of Church Street School consists of two buildings: a two-story classroom-auditorium building, constructed in 1918, is sub-standard in every respect. The exterior is brick; the interior is combustible wood and plaster. Needed extensive renovations cannot be justified on an economic basis. The second unit, a one-story structurally sound classroom building was constructed about 1936, with two rooms added in 1956. It is a combustible unit, except the solid masonry exterior walls. Needed rewiring, relighting, and other upgrading, as well as replacement of an obsolete hand-fired boiler can probably be economically justified. A two-room fire-resistive unit was added in 1964. Water and sewage facilities are provided by the town of Williamston.

A staff of 21, including 1 Special Education teacher and 1 Public School Music teacher, serves a student body of 420 in grades 1 through 5. All 21 teachers hold "A" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from no previous experience to more than 20 years.

c. EAST END SCHOOL

The plant is structurally sound; however, the elementary building is functionally obsolete and in need of extensive relighting and associated rewiring, and renovation of toilet facilities. The high school building, constructed in 1954, is in good

condition except for overcrowding. A cafeteria and boiler room building, constructed in 1960, is sound. The school has municipal water and sewage facilities.

The elementary school has a staff of 17, with 2 sections per grade, except for grade 1. In grades 7 and 8, instruction is arranged around large blocks of time. The high school curriculum serves a student body of some 300. The instructional program is limited by the size of the staff rather than by the size of the student body. Students have no opportunity to pursue vocational interests through the high school curriculum other than in vocational agriculture and in home economics. Of a total faculty of 30 in both schools, 25 hold "A" certificates, 3 have "G" certificates, and 2 have "B" certificates.

Teaching experience ranges from no previous experience to more than 20 years in teaching. One teacher is teaching out of his field of certification; the librarian is teaching four classes. Guidance services in the school are limited to those provided by the County Administrative Office.

d. EDNA ANDREWS SCHOOL

The Edna Andrews School, constructed in 1959 of brick and block, is a single story, fire resistive structure. It is structurally sound and in good condition. Water is supplied by the Town of Hamilton. The school has on-site sewage facilities.

A student body of 215 in grades 1 through 8 is served by 8 teachers in self-contained classes. Three of the teachers hold "C" certificates and 5 hold "A" certificates. Four members of the staff have had more than 20 years of teaching experience.

e. E. J. HAYES SCHOOL

The single story high school building, which was constructed in 1927, is a combustible structure with solid masonry exterior walls. The building, though structurally sound, is deficient in many areas: substandard restrooms; substandard classroom size; old style handfired boiler; poor wooden floors and ceiling surfaces. Other deficiences are: inadequate laboratory facilities and inadequate library facilities. A complete major renovation job would be difficult to justify. Water and sewage facilities are provided by the Town of Williamston.

The single-story, wood frame shop classroom building is rated poor in every respect. Upgrading is not feasible.

The elementary school plant consists of two buildings: a primary classroom-gymtorium building constructed in two stages, 1962, and 1958; and a grammar grade-cafetorium building constructed in 1957. Both buildings are structurally sound and in good condition. There are seven mobile units currently serving as classrooms.

The elementary school has a staff of 33 in grades 1 through 8. In grades 7 and 8 the instructional day is arranged in large blocks of time. The high school has a staff of 32, with a student enrollment of 559. Overcrowding and substandard facilities impose severe limitations on curricular offerings.

Of a total staff of 55 in both the elementary and high school, 43 hold "A" certificates, 9 hold "G" certificates, and 3 have "B" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from no previous experience to more than thirty years. The high school has a full-time guidance counselor and a full-time driver education instructor. Both the high school and the elementary school have full-time librarians.

f. FARM LIFE SCHOOL

The Farm Life School plant consists of three buildings, all substandard and obsolete: a classroom-auditorium building constructed in 1922 of solid masonry exterior walls with wood and plaster interior; a wood-frame, unheated, gymnasium building used only for occasional indoor play; and a masonry-block cafeteria building, structurally sound, which was constructed in 1949. The school has on-site water and sewage facilities.

The school enrollment consists of about 100 in grades 1 through 7, which necessitates the combining of classes for instruction.

Each of the combination grades is self-contained. All four staff members hold "A" certificates, with teaching experience ranging from no previous experience to more than 20 years.

g. HAMILTON SCHOOL

The Hamilton School plant consists of two buildings: a single-story classroom-auditorium building constructed in 1925, with solid masonry exterior walls and wood and plaster interior; and a masonry block cafeteria building constructed in 1950. Both buildings are substandard in every respect. Needed renovation and upgrading cannot be justified on an economic basis. Water is provided by the Town of Hamilton. The school has its own on-site sewage facilities.

The school has an enrollment of about 100 in grades 1 through 7, which necessitates the combining of classes for instructional purposes. Each of the combined grades is self contained. The staff of four has had teaching experience ranging from two years to more than 50 years. Three of the staff hold "A" certificates and one holds a "B" certificate.

h. JAMESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

The Jamesville school plant consists of four buildings: a two-story classroom-auditorium building, constructed in 1922, with solid masonry exterior walls and a combustible wood-plaster interior; a single-story, structurally sound high

school building, constructed in 1936, with a separate two room addition in 1964; a structurally sound brick and block gymnasium building, constructed in 1954; and a structurally sound, single-story cafeteria and shop building, constructed in 1949. The school has on-site water and sewage facilities.

Upgrading the 1922 classroom building to meet modern standards cannot be justified. Needed renovation of restrooms, updating of lighting, and associated rewiring of the 1936 high school building could probably be justified.

The school has an elementary staff of 12 and a high school staff of 9 regular teachers. The total staff of 24 includes a full-time librarian, a public school music teacher, and a non-teaching principal. Three teachers hold "G" certificates. The remaining 21 hold "A" certificates. The school has a very desirable teacher-pupil ratio, and consequently, can offer a fairly broad academic curriculum. Guidance and counseling services are provided by a teacher-counselor, who has one free period per day for such services. Additional counseling services are provided from the County Administrative Office.

i. JAMESVILLE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

The Jamesville Township School physical plant, a single-story suit of mixed construction, was built in stages, beginning with a four-classroom wood-frame section in 1947, now substandard in most respects. Additions to the original unit include a brick and block classroom-auditorium section, constructed in 1952, and a brick and block cafeteria unit, built in 1962. The latter unit has a plywood ceiling and a gas-fired unit heater. The cost of upgrading the 1947 section would be difficult to justify. Upgrading of substandard features of the 1954 section and replacement of the cafeteria heater could be justified. The school has on-site water and sewage facilities.

A staff of 7 serves a student body of approximately 175. One staff member holds a "G" certificate; the other 6 hold "A" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from eight years previous experience to more than 35 years.

j. NORTH EVERETTS SCHOOL

The North Everetts plant, of fire-resistive brick and block construction, was built in 1957 and is structurally sound. The school has on-site water and sewage facilities. A staff of 11 serves a student body of 320. Two staff members hold "G" certificates. In grades 7 and 8, the instructional day is planned around large blocks of time.

k. OAK CITY HIGH SCHOOL

The Oak City union school plant consists of four separate structures: the main three-story classroom-auditorium building, constructed in 1922; the structurally sound primary classroom building, which was constructed in 1936; the gymnasium building, constructed in 1954; and the vocational building, constructed in 1941, with a cafeteria addition in 1960. The cost of upgrading the main classroom building cannot be justified. Water is provided by the Town of Oak City; the school has its own on-site sewage facilities.

The elementary school, with an enrollment of 215, has nine regular teachers and 2 special education teachers. The instructional day at the seventh and eighth grade levels is divided into large blocks of time. The high school curriculum is limited as a result of poor facilities and a student body that numbers only 126. While there are many deficiencies in a school of this size, there is very little that can be done under present organization.

Of a total faculty of 19, 14 hold "A" certificates; 4 have "G" certificates, and one has a "C" certificate. Teaching experience ranges from no previous experience to more than 30 years. Guidance and counseling services are provided by a teacher-counselor, who has one period per day for counseling, and by the County Guidance Supervisor.

l. PARMELE SCHOOL

The Parmele School consists of a small classroom building which dates back to 1915, a separate masonry block auditorium, and two separate block restroom buildings. Although the classroom and auditorium buildings are structurally sound, they are substandard in all respects. Upgrading the plant to meet even minimum standards is not feasible. The school has on-site water and sewage facilities.

An enrollment of slightly over 100 in grades 1 through 7 necessitates the combining of classes in grades 1 through 6 for instructional purposes. Grade 7 is self-contained, as are the three combination grades. A staff of 4 serves the student body. All the teachers hold "A" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from 18 years previous experience to more than 40 years.

m. ROBERSONVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The original classroom-auditorium building at Robersonville Elementary School dates from 1924 or possibly earlier. It is constructed of solid masonry exterior walls, with combustible wood, plaster, and "celotex" interior. A brick and block cafeteria section was added in 1948. In the main, the whole structure is obsolete in most respects and would require major renovation, which would be difficult to justify on an economic basis. Water and sewage facilities are provided by the Town of Robersonville.

A staff of 17, including a non-teaching principal, serves a student body of approximately 405 in grades 1 through 7. Five of the 16 teaching staff members hold "G" certificates; 11 hold "A" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from no previous experience to more than 35 years. All grades are self-contained, including 2 combination sections. The staff includes one teacher for a Special Education class and one teacher for public school music.

n. ROBERSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

The Robersonville High School plant consists of three buildings: a two-story classroom-auditorium building, constructed in 1929, has solid masonry exterior walls with a combustible wood and plaster interior; a single-story gymnasium-cafeteria building, constructed in 1951 of brick and block, is fire resistive; and an agriculture classroom-shop building, constructed in 1940, is a wood frame-brick veneer structure. Minor relighting and associated rewiring and the upgrading of bare concrete corridors, as well as general upgrading, is feasible. Water and sewage services are provided by the Town of Robersonville.

With an enrollment of 302 in grades 8 through 12, the school has a staff of 16. Instruction in grade 8 is arranged in large blocks of time. The high school curriculum is limited to traditional offerings. Of the 16 staff members, 11 hold

"A" certificates; 5 hold "G" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from three years to more than 25 years. The school has a full-time guidance counselor and a full-time librarian.

o. RODGERS SCHOOL

Constructed in 1961, the fire-resistive brick and block Rodgers School is structurally sound and in good condition. The school has on-site water and sewage facilities.

Enrollment in grades 1 through 8 numbers approximately 415. The first six grades are self-contained, including 2 combination sections. In grades 7 and 8, the instructional day is planned around large blocks of time. The staff numbers 15, tow of whom hold "G" certificates; 13 hold "A" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from 2 years to more than 25 years.

p. SALSBURY SCHOOL

Salsbury School is comprised of two single-story, wood-frame combustible units constructed in 1936. The facility is substandard in virtually all respects; upgrading is not believed to be feasible from any point of view. The school has on-site water and sewage facilities. The student body numbers approximately 190 in grades 1 through 7. All grades are self-contained. Staff and student body limitations necessitate three combination grades in grades 4 through 7. Of the 6 staff members, 2 hold "G" certificates; the other 4 hold "A" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from 3 to more than 35 years.

q. WEST MARTIN SCHOOL

The West Martin School physical plant consists of two buildings: a single-story high school and gymtorium, constructed in stages between 1951 and 1955, is a fire resistive brick and block structure; the fire resistive elementary building, constructed in 1956, is in sound condition. In the high school building, deficiencies include: bare concrete floors; lack of tile wainscoating in the restrooms; inadequate kitchen facilities, from the point of view of size; and the lack of a cafeteria, the gymtorium serving as a dining area. Water is supplied by the Town of Oak City; the school has on-site sewage facilities.

Approximately 425 elementary students are served by a staff of 14, 12 of whom hold "A" certificates and 2 of whom hold "G" certificates. About 265 high school students are served by a staff of 10, 9 of whom hold "A" certificates and 1 holds a "G" certificate. Teaching experience ranges from no previous experience to more than 25 years. Instructional time in grades 7 and 8 is arranged in large blocks. The high school curriculum is limited by the size of the staff and the student population. Limited guidance and counseling services are provided from the County Administration Office.

r. WILLIAMSTON HIGH SCHOOL

The physical plant of Williamston High School is comprised of five separate buildings: a structurally sound, two-story elementary building, constructed in 1929 of masonry exterior walls with combustible interiors; a two-story high school building, constructed in 1952-1954, of masonry exterior walls, and wood and plaster walls on the second floor (needed re-lighting, associated rewiring, upgrading of restrooms and other facilities could be justified); a one-story cafeteria-shop and music building, constructed in 1952 of fire resistive block and brick; a gymnasium building, constructed in 1954, also of fire resistive block and brick; and a two-room frame building, formerly used as a shop but now used for classrooms (this building is substandard in every respect). Currently, five mobile units serve as classrooms. Water and sewage services are provided by the Town of Williamston.

The elementary school, with an enrollment of approximately 445, contains grades 5 through 8. The school day in grades 7 and 8 is organized in large blocks of time. The elementary staff of 15 includes one teacher for academically talented students and one teacher in special education. Twelve (12) teachers hold "A" certificates; 3 hold "G" certificates. The high school, with an enrollment of about 410, has a staff of 22, including a principal, a full-time counselor, a full-time music teacher, a full-time librarian and 3 vocational teachers.

The staff includes 16 teachers with "A" certificates and 3 with "C" certificates. Teaching experience ranges from no previous experience to more than thirty years. Curriculum offerings cover a rather wide range of courses, fairly adequate to the needs of the students.

4. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

The preceding evaluation of Martin County's School System reveals the lack of vocational education. This is probably the greatest weakness of the Martin County School System. A limited selection of vocational courses has been offered at the local branch of the Pitt Technical Institute. Fortunately, this portion of education offered in Martin County will soon be greatly improved. The state of North Carolina recently chose Martin County as one of several counties qualifying for State aid to create a locally controlled technical education center. At the same time, the county's school bond issue was defeated; a referendum in the amount of $200,000 to build a physical unit to house this county controlled technical center was approved by the voters. The technical center, which will be named Martin County Technical Institute Unit, will be supported as follows:

1. The $200,000 bond issue provides housing for the facility; this will be county property.
2. The only other expense to be incurred by the county is that of the normal operation of such a facility--namely, utilities, maintenance, etc.
3. The State of North Carolina will supply $15,648 for supplies during the first year and $38,235 for the following year.

4. The State will also provide operating expenses in the amount of $39,060 the first year of operation and $57,929 for the second year, a grand total of $150,872 in state funds. The technical center will offer technical and vocational education for adults and students over 18 years of age whose classes have graduated from high school. The center is not intended to supplant present educational facilities. Instead, it's purpose is to expand present facilities.

Certainly, this is a great step forward in the training of unskilled Martin County citizens for today's job requirements. The center will make possible the upgrading of Martin County's labor force, which will in turn make her labor force more attractive to prospective industries. Hopefully, this is the first step in eventually obtaining a community college in Martin County.

CHAPTER 3

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a condensed list of recommendations contained in the preceding Land and Facilities Development Plan.

1. Martin County citizens should immediately realize their position of lack of progress and take action immediately concerning all methods of improving the overall county situation.

2. The county's situation is unique in that its planning problems are to stimulate growth rather than control it.

3. One of the county's most vital amenities are her interspersed virgin areas and these should be reserved and protected for all times.

4. The county should encourage preservation of its extremely valuable wildlife potential.

5. The county is located in a very desirable position to obtain a state park and possesses an excellent site for same.

6. Optimum residential areas have been located and steps should be taken to insure this use only.

7. Rural commercial establishments have and will remain on a decrease and new commercial areas will be limited to the larger populated areas.

8. Martin County has many desirable industrial sites that meet criteria that are usually requested of sites. Steps should be taken to insure proper land use of these areas.

9. The possibility that much of Martin County's land area is evolving to a state of ownership by large out-of-county firms or commercial timber companies has been pointed out.

10. The shortcomings of the overall transportation system in Martin County have been brought to light and the following remedies have been suggested:

    a. Two major U.S. Highways have been recommended for widening from two lanes to four lanes.
    b. The possibility of abandonment of short unpaved rural roads.
    c. Bypasses around Robersonville, Everetts, and Jamesville were recommended.
    d. Reasons for no new major highway construction in Martin County have been presented.
    e. Recommendations have been made and justification given for four railroad overpasses.

11. A county-wide central fire alarm system has been recommended.

12. The need for two additional county volunteer fire departments has been explained.

13. The eventual need for three additional full-time sheriff's deputys has been pointed out.

14. The need for county participation in meeting the needs of prospective industrial clients has been pointed out.

15. The need for replacing the existing county courthouse has been discussed.

16. Martin County greatly lacks certain types of public recreation.

17. The county school system has been evaluated and the following recommendations have been made:

    a. The county build one consolidated high school utilizing the availability of public utilities from the Town of Williamston.

    b. Five elementary schools be discontinued, the property disposed of, and new or additional facilities be constructed.

PART 2

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

INTRODUCTION

A major function of a public improvements program and capital improvements budget is to determine whether a governmental unit is financially able to pay for needed public improvements. Therefore, this chapter is an analysis of Martin County's financial situation; including the tax structure, revenue and expenditures, and bonded indebtedness. These measures of Martin County's financial situation are projected over a six-year capital budgeting period.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS OF COUNTY FINANCES

A. TAX STRUCTURE

The two basic elements of Martin County's tax structure are the tax rate; that is, the amount of tax charged per $100 valuation, and the total property valuation of the county for tax purposes.

The basic county-wide tax rate in Martin County is $1.25 per $100 assessed valuation. In addition, the following special rates apply:

School District:	Rate:
Bear Grass	$.18
Jamesville	.12
Oak City	.12
Robersonville	.20
Williams	.12
Williamston	.18
Williamston Fire District No. 1	.04
Bear Grass Fire District No. 1	.04

The maximum county tax rate in any district is $1.47 per $100 valuation. This is a relatively low rate which could be increased, if necessary, without causing undue hardship to anyone, in comparison to the majority of county tax rates in North Carolina. In Chart #1, the tax valuation of Martin County is shown and projected through 1975. The sharp increase from 1962 to 1963 resulted from a change in assessed valuation from 40 percent to 60 percent of appraised value. As shown on the chart, assessed

valuation of the county should increase to over $100,000,000 by 1975. However, this increase does not take into account a general revaluation of the county which will become effective in 1969. Due to rapidly rising land prices, this revaluation should result in a further sharp increase in the tax value of Martin County.

With taxable property valuations expanding as expected, Martin County should have significant increases in revenue from ad valorem taxes during the next few years. One such significant example is the fact the Weyerhaeuser plant at Plymouth has announced an expansion program of $25,000,000 in the near future.

Consequently, the projection of assessed value in Chart #1 is probably a very conservative one.

B. REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

During each fiscal year from 1962 through 1966, Martin County spent less money that it received. As a result, the County has accumulated a large surplus as shown on Chart #2. Of this $743,000 surplus, $424,000 is in the school fund and $194,000 is in the general fund. The remainder is spread among various other funds. The surplus has increased by an average of over $150,000 per year since 1962. Even with no increase in revenue in proportion to operating expenditures, the County could use this $150,000 per year for capital improvements projects. However, the anticipated rise in county revenues may free even more funds to expand the county's level of service.

C. BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

One of the principal methods of financing a major capital improvement is by selling obligation bonds. Therefore, for capital budgeting purposes, it is important to know the amount of debt outstanding and the debt capacity for Martin County.

As shown in Chart #3, Martin County now has approximately $170,000 in bonded indebtedness. If no further debt is assumed, by 1973, the County will have no outstanding debt. The current amount of debt is very low in relation to the County's accumulated surplus and bonding capacity.

There are several factors to consider in determining how much debt a county can assume. The first consideration is the legal limit on the amount of money which a county can borrow. This limit is five percent of a county's assessed valuation for a special capital improvement such as schools or a courthouse. In addition, at the same time the county may borrow another five percent (5%) for the general fund, a total of ten percent (10%).

Assuming an average increase of $3,000,000 per year in Martin County's assessed valuation, the legal debt limit for the county is shown in Table #1. Obviously, the county's current debt load is far below its legal debt limit. It should be stressed that the legal debt limit is a maximum rather than a goal to strive for. In order to protect its financial standing, Martin County should stay well within the debt limit.

TABLE #1 - PROJECTION OF ASSESSED VALUATION

AND LEGAL DEBT LIMIT, MARTIN COUNTY

Year	Estimated Assessed Valuation	Debt Limit
1967	$84,200,000	$8,420,000
1968	87,000,000	8,700,000
1969	90,000,000	9,000,000
1970	93,000,000	9,300,000
1971	96,000,000	9,600,000
1972	99,000,000	9,900,000
1973	102,000,000	10,200,000
1974	105,000,000	10,500,000
1975	108,000,000	10,800,000

Another factor to be considered in determining a county's borrowing policy is the county's ability to repay the principal as well as interest on its debt. In general, a good debt policy should include a provision for repaying at least 20 percent of the principal on a debt during the first five years after the debt is acquired. However, in no case should the length of time for which bonds are issued exceed the expected useful life of the asset which the bonds are used to purchase. Martin County should have no trouble meeting the above criteria.

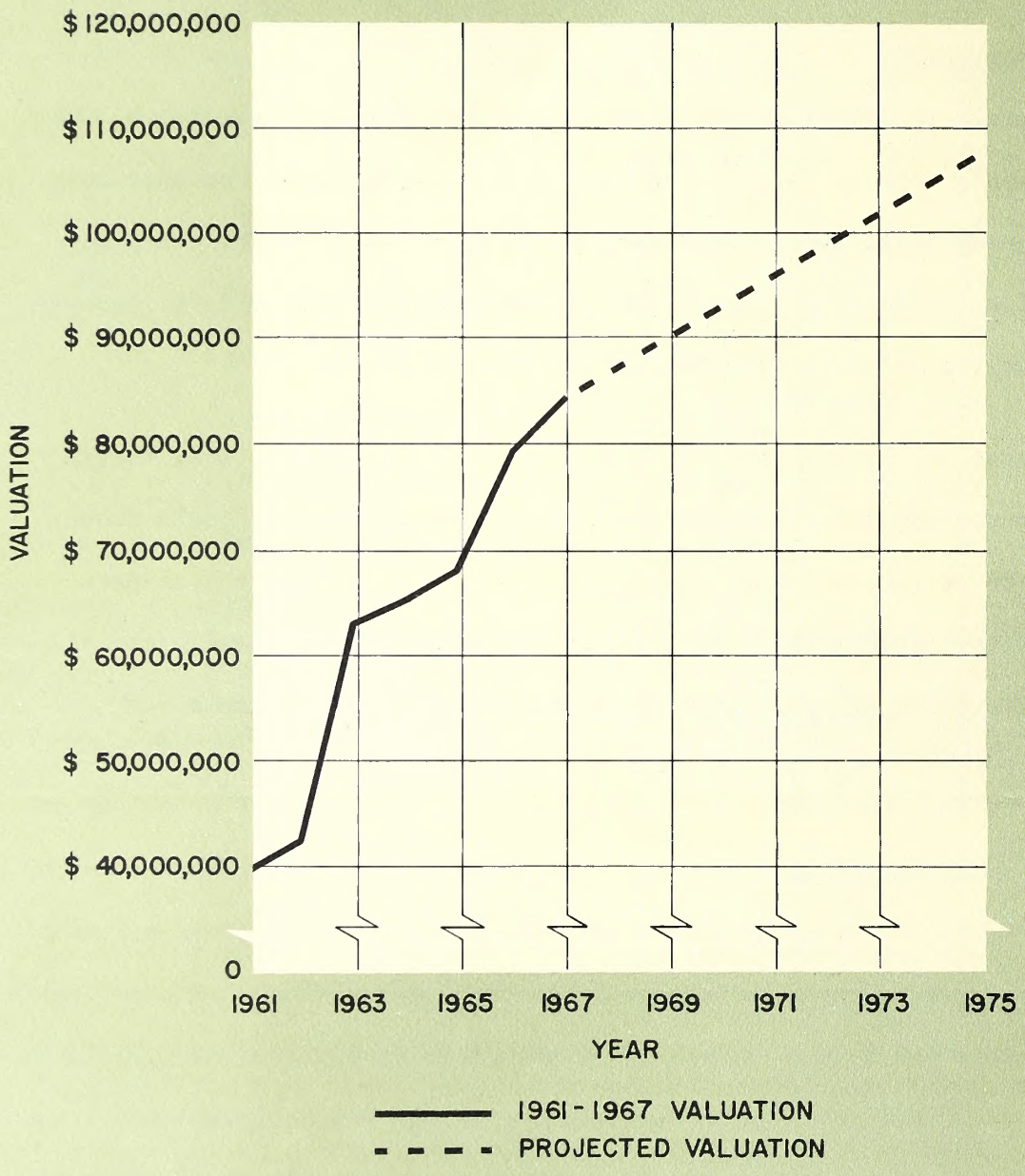
Finally, long-term debts should be reserved for major capital purchases. Martin County should never borrow to meet regular operating expenses.

D. EVALUATION

Generally, Martin County is in excellent financial condition. The County debt is very low and the continuing excess of revenue over expenditures has enabled the County to accumulate a sizeable surplus. Also, tax revenue in the county may be expected to increase substantially during the next few years.

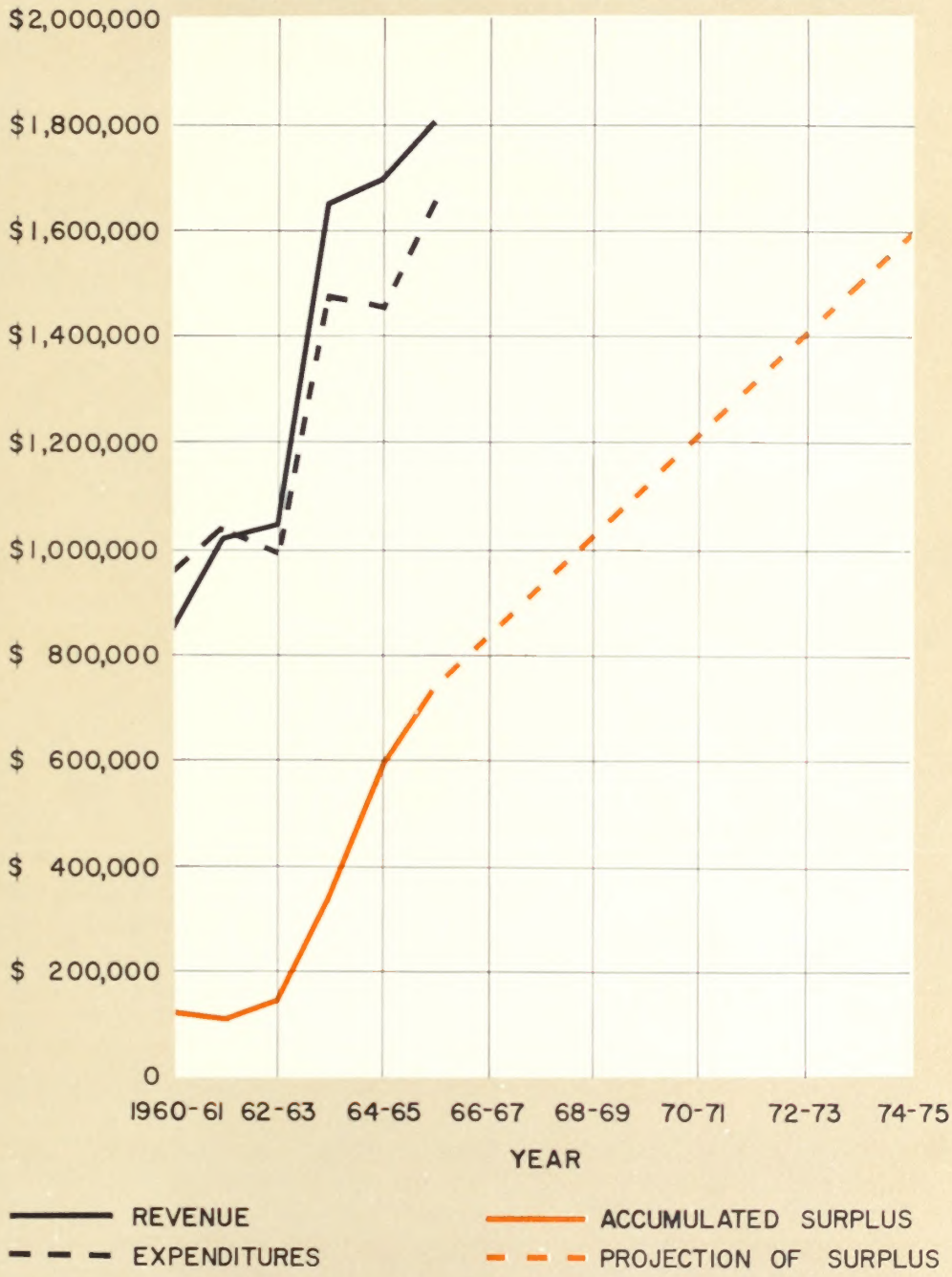
Based on the analysis in this chapter, it is obvious that Martin County can easily afford the capital improvements projects scheduled in the following chapter. If its citizens expect to share in the prosperity of this state and nation, Martin County can ill afford not to make these recommended capital investments.

CHART 1. ASSESSED VALUATION



SOURCE: BASIC INFORMATION DERIVED FROM MARTIN COUNTY YEARLY AUDIT REPORTS

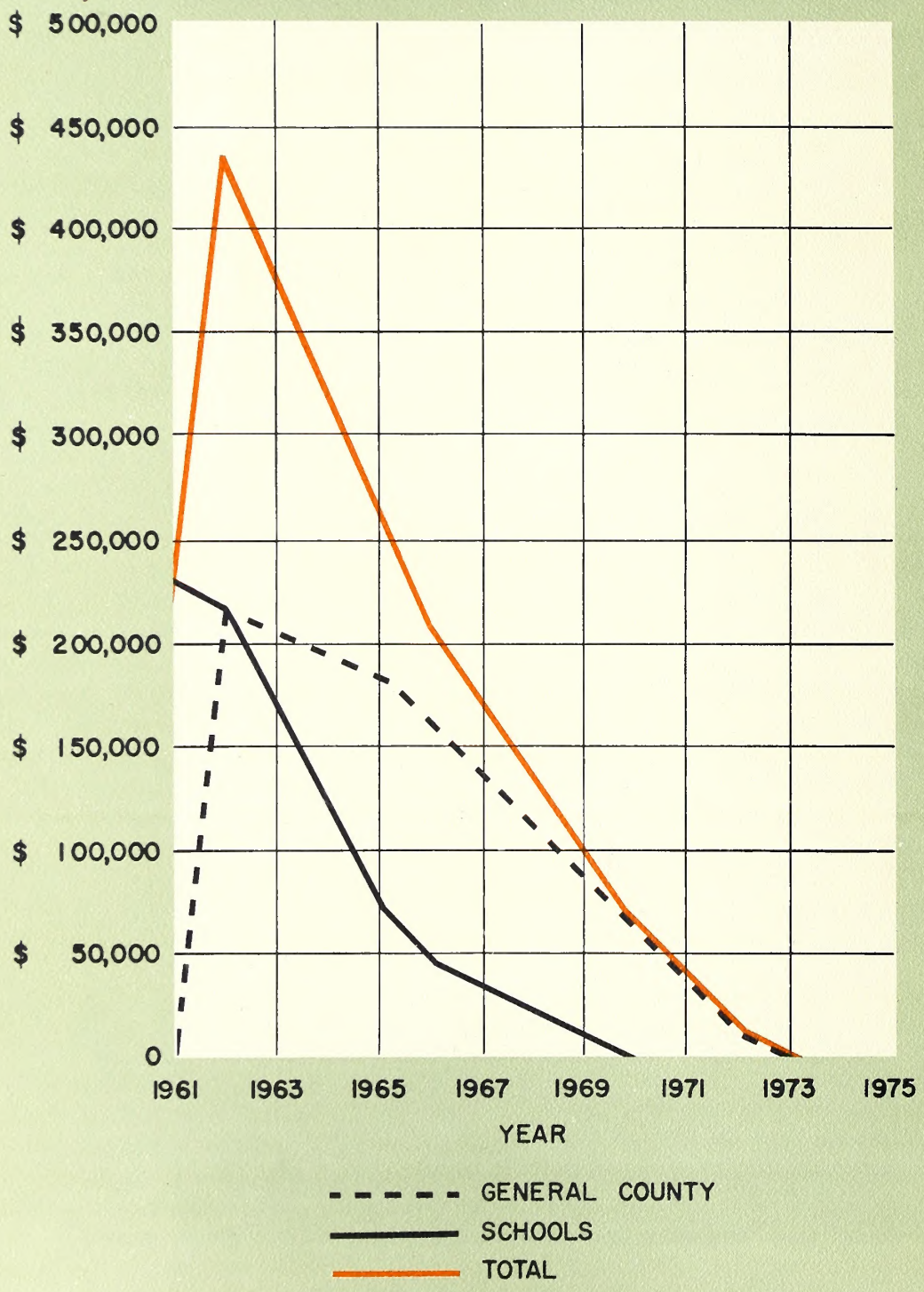
CHART 2. REVENUE, EXPENDITURES, AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, MARTIN COUNTY.



SOURCE: BASIC INFORMATION DERIVED FROM MARTIN COUNTY YEARLY AUDIT REPORTS

CHART 3. BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

(ON JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR)



SOURCE: BASIC INFORMATION DERIVED FROM MARTIN COUNTY YEARLY AUDIT REPORTS

CHAPTER 5

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND CAPITAL BUDGET

INTRODUCTION

Ingenuity coupled with solid financial policies should be exercised to obtain public improvements. While there is no ideal way to acquire all capital improvements, certain methods are best suited to each particular improvement. Chapter II of the Public Facilities Plan pointed out facilities that need improvement and made recommendations for improvements. This chapter is an attempt to set priorities on the projects required for the next 20 years. The Capital Improvements Budget suggests the manner and year of financing the projects for the first six years of the twenty. The following list includes the major methods by which capital improvements can be obtained.

A. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

General obligation bonds are financed out of property taxes or they also may be paid out by benefit assessment or with utility revenues. The latter two methods do not apply to Martin County, however, since the county does not presently participate in any utility services. In every case the assessed valuation of property in the county is in a sense pledged as security toward payment of general obligation bonds. These bonds are therefore tax liens on all assessable property in the county.

General obligation bonds cannot bear an interest rate greater than six percent per annum (GS 160-390). Bonds must be issued within five years after a bond ordinance is passed, and payments must start within three years after the bonds are issued (GS 160-391). The length of time the bonds may run is

specified in GS 160-382. In general, bonds cannot run for longer than the useful life of the improvement for which the bonds are issued.

As a practical financial rule, a municipality should keep its debt retirement scheduled so that at least 25 percent of the principal is always due for amortization within a five-year period.

B. REVENUE BONDS

If both principal and interest costs are to be met exclusively from the earnings of a facility to be constructed from certificate proceeds, the certificates are known as "revenue bonds." Interest rates on this type of bond depend on the type of facility financed and its economic feasibility.

State Law regulates municipal revenue bond sales. The maximum length that bonds can run is 35 years, and the maximum rate of interest is six percent per annum (GS 160-417). Revenue bonds do not count against the county's bonding capacity.

While revenue bonds are outside the debt limit, revenues must be sufficient to cover payment of the bonds after all operating costs have been met. It is sometimes necessary to increase user charges to meet these conditions. An applicable example for Martin County is bonds to build ABS stores.

C. BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

Assessments are levied upon certain property especially benefitted by an improvement. Such special assessment may be a water or sewer line which is to be extended. Special assessment usually applies also to churches, institutions, etc., which are usually exempt from property taxes. At present this method does not apply to Martin County but could in the future.

D. CURRENT REVENUES

Current revenue funds are usually programmed for Capital Improvements in the Annual Budget. Financing from current revenue, the "pay as you go" policy, has its disadvantages when expenditures of comparatively large amounts occur. This results in unusual fluctuations in the tax rate which could be otherwise stabilized by distributing the cost over several years with long-term bonds.

E. CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

This is a municipal savings fund in which monies are added from the general fund or from a tax levied for this purpose. These are monies set aside by ordinance for future necessary capital expenditures as specified in GS 160-425 through 434.

This fund helps to even out large capital expenditures which occur infrequently.

F. NECESSARY VS NON-NECESSARY EXPENSES

The constitution of North Carolina defines a necessary expense as quoted:

> "No county, city, town or other municipal corporation shall contract any debt, pledge its faith or loan its credit, nor shall any tax be levied or collected by any officers of the same except for the necessary expenses thereof, unless approved by a majority of those who shall vote thereon in any election held for such purposes."
>
> (N.C. Const. art. VII, P.6.)

There is no clear cut definition and court case against counties for spending money for nonnecessary expenses do not clarify the definition. Each item must be considered on its own merit. Items that have been tested in court, of course, are classified as necessary or nonnecessary. Some startling examples are: the court has ruled that hospitals are a nonnecessary expense, and in contrast, a garbage incinerator is classified as a necessary expense. In short, each item must be taken individually to determine financing and if it is a nonnecessary expense, its financing must be approved by a majority of voters actually voting in a referendum.

G. PROJECT PRIORITY SCHEDULE

Listed below are departments within the Martin County government that fall within the category of requiring capital improvements within the next 20 years.

1. Martin County Technical Institute Unit. . . MCTIU
2. County Courthouse . . . . . CCH
3. Fire Protection . . . . . FP
4. Hospital Commission . . . . . HC
5. Industrial Development . . . . . ID
6. School Capital Outlay . . . . . SCO
7. County School Bus Garage . . . . . SBG

In the schedule contained in the following pages, Project Priorities will be preceded by A (1968-1974) and B (1974-1988). Priority A includes an estimate and schedule of capital improvements by years. The first six years are as far as the capital improvements budget is estimated. A realistic attempt has been made to relate the cost of projects to expected available funds, or when necessary, a tax increase is reccommended.

Priority B, the remaining 14 years of the Public Improvements Program, is a tentative list of projects listed by priority with no attempted schedule by year because of unseen variables. It should be mentioned here that Priority A, the first 6 years of the Public Improvements Program, is scheduled with the

assumption that the present level of economy continues without radical fluctuations. Naturally, in the event that present economic trends experience noticable fluctuations, the Capital Improvements Budget will necessarily have to be adjusted proportionally.

The recommended methods of financing the capital improvements were made by careful estimate of projected funds available for each category in every particular instance. This is a very difficult task, especially in regard to General Obligation Bonds. This is due to the following: (1) the issuance of these bonds is regulated by the state; (2) bonds are bought on basis of bids, consequently, the rate of interest can not be projected; (3) the total amount of voter approved referendum does not have to be included in a single obligation; (4) there are numerous arrangements by which these bonds may be sold, by this we mean that the county can make its own choice of duration of maturities and schedule of payment of interest; (5) at such times that interest rates are high it may be beneficial for the county to engage in revenue anticipation notes instead of bonds.

Certain guidelines, however, have been followed in the recommended financing, all of which stay safely below expected finances with the exception of General Obligation Bonds. These have been recommended on the general basis that the county matures all bonds twenty years from issuance by equal

annual payments on the principal plus the interest on the unpaid balance. The interest rate used was 6 percent, which is actually 1.5 percent above average current bond interest.

At present county property valuation a tax increase of approximately 10¢ per hundred dollar valuation will be necessary to support these recommended bond issues. However, the necessity for this increase in taxes is not anticipated due to the fact that Martin County will have a tax revaluation by 1969. In addition, industrial expansion as mentioned before will serve to absorb these bond maturity payments.

"LIST OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS"

H. LIST OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Project Number: A (SCO) - 1 1968-1969

Project Name: Elementary School - replacing Church Street School, Williamston

Discussion and Justification of Project:

The two buildings have been condemmed; conditions are overcrowded, enrollment increases each year, facilities completely outdated. Comply with state recommendations that site be disposed of and facilities be built on new location.

Approximate Cost: $640,000

Suggested Method of Financing: State funds from 1963 State School Bond Referendum, $515,753.78. Current county revenue funds, $124,246.

* * * *

Project Number: A (SCO) - 2 1968-1969

Project Name: Classroom addition to East End School

Discussion and Justification of Project:

Necessity of replacing 1936 and 1954 portions of unit due to deterioration and maintenance requirements.

Approximate Cost: $75,000

Suggested Method of Financing: State funds from 1963 school bond referendum.

Project Number: A (SCO) - 3 1968-1969

Project Name: Cafeteria and library for West Martin School

Discussion and Justification of Project:

High School includes bare concrete floors, no waterproofing in bathrooms, inadequate kitchen facilities and no cafeteria.

Approximate Cost: $125,000

Suggested Method of Financing: State funds from 1963 State School Bond referendum.

* * * *

Project Number: A (SCO) - 4 1969-1970

Project Name: New Consolidated High School

Discussion and Justification of Project:

This school is needed to replace existing outdated facilities and to make possible a wider range and longer duration of courses offered. Even though this issue has been defeated by Martin County voters twice before, it should be tried once again with a different approach. Should it be defeated the third time, the county commissioners should raise taxes in order to accomplish the project in approximately 5 years.

Approximate Cost: $3,000,000

Suggested Method of Financing: General Obligation Bonds.

Project Number: A (MCTIU) - 1 1969-1970

Project Name: Physical facility for Martin County Technical Institute Unit.

Discussion and Justification of Project:

Bonds were approved by a majority of Martin County voters on November 11, 1967.

Approximate Cost: $200,000

Suggested Method of Financing: General Obligation Bonds.

* * * * *

Project Number: A (FP) - 1 1969-1970

Project Name: County-wide Fire Alarm System

Discussion and Justification of Project:

Increased efficiency - prevention of multiple coverage of individual fires.

Approximate Cost: $5,000

Suggested Method of Financing: General Fund Surplus

Project Number: A (SCO) - 5 1970-1971

Project Name: Addition to Oak City School

8 classrooms, administrative suite,

and library

Discussion and Justification of Project:

Replacement of inadequate and outdated facilities.

Approximate Cost: $125,000

Suggested Method of Financing: General Fund Surplus

* * * * *

Project Number: A (SCO) - 6 1970-1971

Project Name: Primary classroom expansion - 4 classrooms

at Robersonville Elementary School, 4

Elementary classrooms at E. J. Hayes, 4

classrooms at Jamesville School

Discussion and Justification of Project:

Facilities to replace present mobile units

and future space requirements.

Approximate Cost: $175,000

Suggested Method of Financing: School Capital Reserve

I. LIST OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

The following is a priority list of capital improvements, that the county is expected to have to finance from 1974 to 1988. The list is an attempt to cover all major projects that will require capital outlay. It is intended that this list be a guide to the county officials in updating the six-year Capital Improvements Budget in the future. No attempt is made to schedule the items by year, due to irregularities of our economy.

Project Number: A (HC) - 1

Project Name: New 100 Bed County Hospital

Discussion and Justification of Project:

As mentioned before in this publication concerning hospitals, a study has been made and this item is entered in this county capital budget in the event that a new hospital proves feasible. In the event that the hospital commission receives a negative report the following capital budget items can be moved back to replace this hospital item.

Approximate Cost: $2,000,000

Suggested Method of Financing: General Obligation Bonds.

* * * * *

Project Number: A (CCH) - 1

Project Name: New County Courthouse

Discussion and Justification of Project:

Replace outdated and inefficient facility.

Approximate Cost: $750,000

Suggested Method of Financing: General Obligation Bonds.

Project Number: B (SBG) - 1

Project Name: New County School Bus Garage

Discussion and Justification of Project:

This is a multiple use facility. It now houses school maintenance shops, book storage, school supplies, furniture, and school bus maintenance. The facility is outdated and totally inadequate for its present use.

Approximate Cost: $250,000

Suggested Method of Financing: General Obligation Bonds.

* * * * *

Project Number: B (SCO) - 7

Project Name: Renovation of Existing Facilities

Discussion and Justification of Project:

These funds can be explained as an estimate of needed buffer funds for unforseen renovations to existing facilities.

Approximate Cost: $250,000

Suggested Method of Financing: School Capital Reserve Fund

IMPLEMENTATION

CHAPTER VI - IMPLEMENTATION

As mentioned before, this publication is the conclusion of Martin County's initial federally subsidized planning program. This program has actually served only as a basis for continued efforts to insure logical development and improvement for the total environment of Martin County. At this point the county needs more legal means by which to implement the recommendations made thus far. The county has, however, applied for more federal funds to continue its planning program. Under this program is included means for adopting a zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations. These two elements, once adopted, will give the county legal means by which it can implement most of the recommendations made, especially in controlling land development. This application is currently pending federal approval. Certainly, its approval will mean much to the revitalization and progress of Martin County's physical and economic environment.

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